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Letter dated 21 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the letter by which the Secretary-General/High Representative of the Council of the European Union, Javier Solana, informs you that the EU Council has approved the crisis management concept for a possible operation in Chad and the Central African Republic, and declared its readiness to support the action of the United Nations (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) João **Salgueiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 21 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: French]

Brussels, 17 September 2007

In your report of 10 August 2007 (S/2007/488), you underscored the urgent need for an international initiative to deal with the regional consequences of the crisis in Darfur.

To that end, you recommended the deployment of a multidimensional presence in eastern Chad and north-eastern Central African Republic, aimed at improving the security of refugee and displaced populations, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance and creating the conditions for reconstruction and development efforts in these areas.

The European Union has taken note of the Security Council's readiness, as expressed in its presidential statement of 27 August (S/PRST/2007/30), to follow your recommendation and authorize the establishment of this presence. I note that the members of the Council requested, in the same declaration, that you keep them closely informed with regard to preparations for this operation.

I am therefore pleased to inform you that the Council of the European Union has approved the concept of crisis management for the operation envisaged in Chad and the Central African Republic. This decision, which confirms the principled readiness expressed on 23 July by the Council of the European Union to support United Nations action, will enable the detailed planning of this operation to commence. The goal of the European Union is to contribute, in close collaboration with the other actors of the international community, and in particular with the African Union and the United Nations, to the resolution of the crisis in Darfur through a global and regional approach.

In order for the European Union to participate, however, the Security Council must adopt a resolution providing a mandate adapted for the European force and authorizing the deployment of elements of the European force in Chad and the Central African Republic during the operation itself as well as during its disengagement phase. I should like to draw your attention to the urgent need for this resolution, because without it the European Union will be unable to take all the decisions necessary to continue preparing for this operation.

This resolution should also provide a legal basis for the presence of European troops in Chad, in the Central African Republic, and in the transit countries for the force, and should invite the Governments concerned to conclude Status of Forces Agreements with the European Union as soon as possible.

In accord with your recommendations, the objective of the military operation is to contribute to the improvement of general security in the regions adjacent to Darfur in order to enable the United Nations police force and the humanitarian agencies to operate under the most favourable security conditions, and to contribute to creating conditions favouring the return of displaced persons, in particular in the Dar Sila area, as well as conditions permitting a programme of rehabilitation for the zones of origin of displaced populations.

The European Union operation would continue for a period of one year after the deployment of the force. At the end of that period, the force would proceed to redeploy; during the redeployment period, the force must be capable of continuing to carry out its tasks, within the limits of its residual capacity. The arrangements necessary for ensuring the continuation of the force following the end of the 12-month period must be prepared under conditions of close coordination between the European Union and the United Nations, on the basis of a joint needs assessment undertaken six months after initial deployment of the force.

The authorities of the countries concerned have been consulted regarding the main aspects of the operation as envisaged. They have expressed their assent and support in principle for the establishment of a European force. The European Union intends to continue working transparently and cooperatively with these authorities in the coming planning process as well as in the implementation phase. It will also ensure that the Governments of neighbouring States, the African Union and the subregional organizations are kept informed.

Preparations will get under way in the coming weeks. They will be carried out in close cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat. It would be useful in this regard to establish liaison arrangements between the Secretariats and the European force headquarters, so as to enable them to work together effectively. This work must make possible the identification of detailed modalities under which the European Union will carry out this mission, as well as potential support synergies with the United Nations mission. I suggest that these modalities, once identified, should be the topic of an exchange of letters between the Secretaries-General in order to formalize our agreement on the precise nature of the support expected from the European force by the United Nations mission.

(*Signed*) Javier **Solana**